

Educational Activities for Parents Age 23 or Younger

During the 2012 Legislative Session the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 507 which increases the age at which we can allow educational activities to count as participation for parents.

Beginning July 1, 2012 a parent, age 19 or younger, will be considered to have met the minimum number of participation hours required if they are:

(a) Maintaining satisfactory full-time attendance in high school or GED courses during the month, or

(b) Participating in Education Directly Related to Employment for an average of 20 hours per week during the month.

For these participants, the contractor must verify full-time enrollment and progress, but no weekly time sheets will be required. Participation hours will be entered on N-FOCUS as: (a) Satisfactory Attendance at Secondary School or GED; or (b) Education Directly Related to Employment.

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A parent, age 23 or younger, will be considered to have met participation requirements if they are participating in Education Directly Related to Employment for at least an average of 20 hours per week during the month. For purposes of this requirement, Education Directly Related to Employment includes Adult Basic Education (ABE), English as a Second Language (ESL), or a General Educational Development (GED) program. The Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Educational Development (GED) program must be approved by the Nebraska Department of Education. For a listing of approved instructional sites please refer to TANF Policy Log Entry: "Adult Education Programs".

Planning Hours

For the purpose of meeting the 20 hour per week requirement for the Education Directly Related to Employment component, we will count one hour of unsupervised study time for each hour of scheduled class attendance each week. You can count unsupervised study time without verification of the need from the Adult Education program. You can count supervised study time for up to the number of hours needed to meet the 20 hour per week requirement. Supervised study must take place at either the instructional program site or the EF contractor's site. Appropriate learning materials must be made available and used by the participants. Learning materials include either resource material or online instruction.

Distance Learning Nebraska Adult Education offers two programs. Contact your local Adult Education program or call (877) 327-6433 for more information.

USA Learns is an online instructional program for English as a Second Language (ESL) students. It was originally developed by the US Department of Education, but is now administered through the Sacramento County California Office of Education. The program is free; it can be utilized both in and out of the classroom. Students must attend class along with utilizing USA Learns outside the classroom. It has three distinct courses: beginning, intermediate, and high level; the three main areas of learning are: survival skills, workplace skills, and the practice of reading and writing.

I-Pathways is an online instructional program designed for the GED prep student; one who scores at least at the 9th grade level on the TABE reading, level D assessment. Nebraska offers it as a hybrid model in which a student comes to class at least two times a month to check-in with the instructor. Adult Education programs do offer appropriate students the online instruction option after the TABE pre-testing is done and the instructor visits with an individual to determine if he/she is a good candidate for distance learning.

Library Materials Available The Nebraska Department of Education ABE Office has a [lending library](#) of materials for both Adult Education and ESL. Some are resources containing practical ideas and exercises to be used with students. Read the descriptions and if you should decide you would like to peruse some, call or e-mail Jim Lukesh: 402/471-4806 or jim.lukesh@nebraska.gov. Many of the

resources contain excellent material for students struggling in specific areas. Materials can be checked out for 6 weeks (longer if not in demand).

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For two-parent families, when both parents are 23 or younger, they must each meet the requirement of participating for 20 hours per week in order to meet rate. If one parent meets the age requirement for this activity, but the other parent is 24 or older, the youngest parent must participate for 20 hours per week and the older parent would be required to participate 15 hours per week in any approved activity. At least 10 of these 15 hours per week must come from a core activity.

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Contractors will consider these participants as meeting rate for their monthly participation report, however, they will not count toward our Federal WPR. Therefore, if our Federal WPR falls below Nebraska's targeted rate plus 10% in any month, we may suspend this allowance. In the event this should happen, you will be notified.